

Town of Sheffield Snow Plowing Guidelines

1. INTRODUCTION

Reasonable ice and snow control is necessary for routine travel and emergency services. The Town will provide such control in a safe and cost effective manner, keeping in mind safety, budget, personnel and environmental concerns. The Town will use town employees, equipment and/or private contractors to provide this service. The Town will endeavor to provide reasonably safe road conditions during times of inclement weather. Travelers should use safe judgment and recognize that they are traveling at their own risk in inclement weather.

2. WHEN THE TOWN WILL START SNOW OR ICE CONTROL OPERATIONS

The Highway Superintendent or Highway Department personnel will decide when to begin snow or ice control operations. Some of the criteria for that decision are:

- When participation first starts
- Snow accumulation of 2 inches or more plowing operations may begin
- Drifting of snow that causes problems for travel
- Icy conditions which seriously affect travel
- Time of snow fall in relationship to heavy traveled streets

3. HOW SNOW WILL BE PLOWED

Snow will be plowed in a manner so as to minimize any traffic obstructions. The discharge shall go onto the shoulder area of the road. In times of extreme snowfall (12 inches or more), roads will not always immediately be able to be cleared of snow.

4. PRIORITIES FOR PLOWING

Routes will be plowed in the most cost effective and timely manner. Access will be maintained for emergency fire, police and medical services. Town parking areas and the Transfer Station will be plowed last.

5. WORK SCHEDULE FOR SNOW PLOW OPERATORS

Snow plow operators will be expected to work eight-hour shifts. In severe snow emergencies, operators sometimes shall have to work in excess of eight-hour shifts. However, because of safety concerns, no operator shall work more than a sixteen-hour shift in any twenty-four hour period. Operators may take a fifteen minute break every two hours with a half-hour meal break after approximately four hours. After a sixteen hour day, the operators will be required to leave work for 8 hours. If additional qualified personnel are available they will fill-in. Snow and ice operations may not take place between midnight and 4 am.

6. USE OF SAND, SALT AND OTHER CHEMICALS

The Town will use sand and salt when there are hazardous ice or slippery conditions. The Town is concerned about the effect of such chemicals on the environment and will limit its use for that reason. Even after reasonable care, snow and ice may still build up.

7. EMERGENCY SITUATIONS

For emergency vehicles responding to emergency situations (fire, medical, police) within the Town, necessary employees and equipment will be dispatched as soon as possible.

8. DAMAGE TO PERSONAL PROPERTY

Only properties which are installed properly and allowed by the Town bylaws and are damaged by actual contact with snow plowing equipment may be considered. Residents should keep in mind that anything installed within the Town's right of way is done so at the owner's risk. Any resident who feels that their property was damaged by the Town should submit a letter, detailing the damage, to the Town Administrator's office. A claim will be submitted to the Town's insurance carrier. Damage to mailboxes, trees, shrubbery and other landscaping will not be considered for compensation.

9. PLOWING OF PRIVATE PROPERTY

Unless approved by the Board of Selectmen or emergency vehicles need access, there shall be no plowing of private property with Town equipment.

10. TOWING OF VEHICLES

The towing of vehicles not owned by the Town is prohibited. Vehicles that are simply stuck or unable to travel will not be towed or pulled out by a Town vehicle. Any vehicle that is left unattended or parked in an emergency vehicle turn around (snow plow vehicles are considered emergency vehicles) can and may be towed by a professional towing company at the owner's expense. Vehicles left over night in the Village Green between November 1st and April 1st may be towed.

11. CONTRACTED SERVICES

Use of contracted services may be necessary in the event of a large storm. The Highway Superintendent or Highway personnel will determine the need for contracted services. Some of the criteria used to determine the need are as follows:

- When a Town employee is not available due to injury, sick or other
- Use of Temporary Highway workers will be on a rotating basis
- Contracted services may not be called in immediately for each storm.